

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 14, 2005. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 are now presented for examination. (Claims 3 and 4 were withdrawn from consideration). Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. New Claims 9 and 10 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection, and are supported by the description appearing from, for example, page 37, line 26 to page 38, line 1 of the specification. Claims 1 and 2 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0192935 (Joshi et al.), and Claims 5-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over that reference.

Without conceding the propriety of the foregoing rejections, Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to even further clarify the claimed subject matter. Each of the amended claims is directed to an image display device in which both a first substrate and a frame are made of glass. The image display device has a plurality of electron-emitting devices and an illuminant disposed within the envelope, wherein the illuminant emits light in response to irradiation of electrons emitted from the electron-emitting devices. By virtue of the claimed structure of the image display device having the envelope in which

the plurality of electron-emitting devices and illuminant are provided, the device is substantially airtight and non-breakable.

The subject matter of the first substrate being made of glass and the frame being made of glass is supported by the descriptions appearing at, for example, page 11, lines 8-9 and page 13, lines 10-16, respectively, of the specification.

It is believed that Claims 1 and 2 are clearly patentable over Joshi et al. for the reasons stated below.

Joshi et al. discloses that the conductive region 12 on the semiconductor substrate 10 and the conductive column 30 (or 31) are connected using the solder joint 35. PbSn and InSb are disclosed as materials of the solder joint 35 (paragraph [0029]), and a metal such as aluminum, copper, nickel or gold is disclosed as a material of the conductive region 12 (paragraph [0019]). In addition, Joshi et al. discloses the structure with a part of the conductive region 12 being covered with the passivation layer 14 (Fig.1(i)). As materials of the passivation layer 14, there are disclosed silicon nitride, glass and polyimide which are different from the material of the conductive region 12. However, the conductive column 30 (or 31) is a member obtained by coating Pb, PbSn, copper, aluminum, gold or silver with a metallic layer (paragraphs [0033] and [0034]), and the semiconductor substrate 10 is a silicon wafer or a semiconductor substrate containing silicon, gallium or arsenide (paragraph [0021]). Thus, none of the materials of the conductive column and the semiconductor substrate are glass. As described at paragraph [0003], Joshi et al. discloses only the connecting structure to make better the conductive connection between a semiconductor and a carrier. However, Joshi et al. does not disclose

or suggest the sealing structure of an image display device having a plurality of electron-emitting devices and an illuminant disposed within an envelope having a first substrate and frame comprised of glass, wherein an inside of the envelope is maintained in reduced pressure atmosphere, as recited in the amended independent Claims 1 and 2.

Because Joshi et al. refers to the conductive connection, but neither teaches nor suggests the airtightness and bonding ability attained by virtue of the structure of Claims 1 and 2, Joshi et al. cannot attain a structure for seal bonding of the envelope whose inside is maintained in reduced pressure atmosphere as in the devices of Claims 1 and 2.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 2 are clearly patentable over Joshi et al. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection based on that reference be withdrawn.

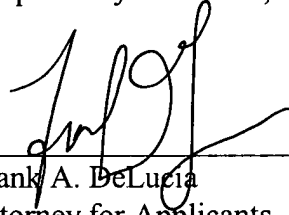
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank A. DeLucia', is written over a horizontal line.

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